

MEMORIAL

OF THE

Inhabitants of the City of Darien,

IN THE

STATE OF GEORGIA.

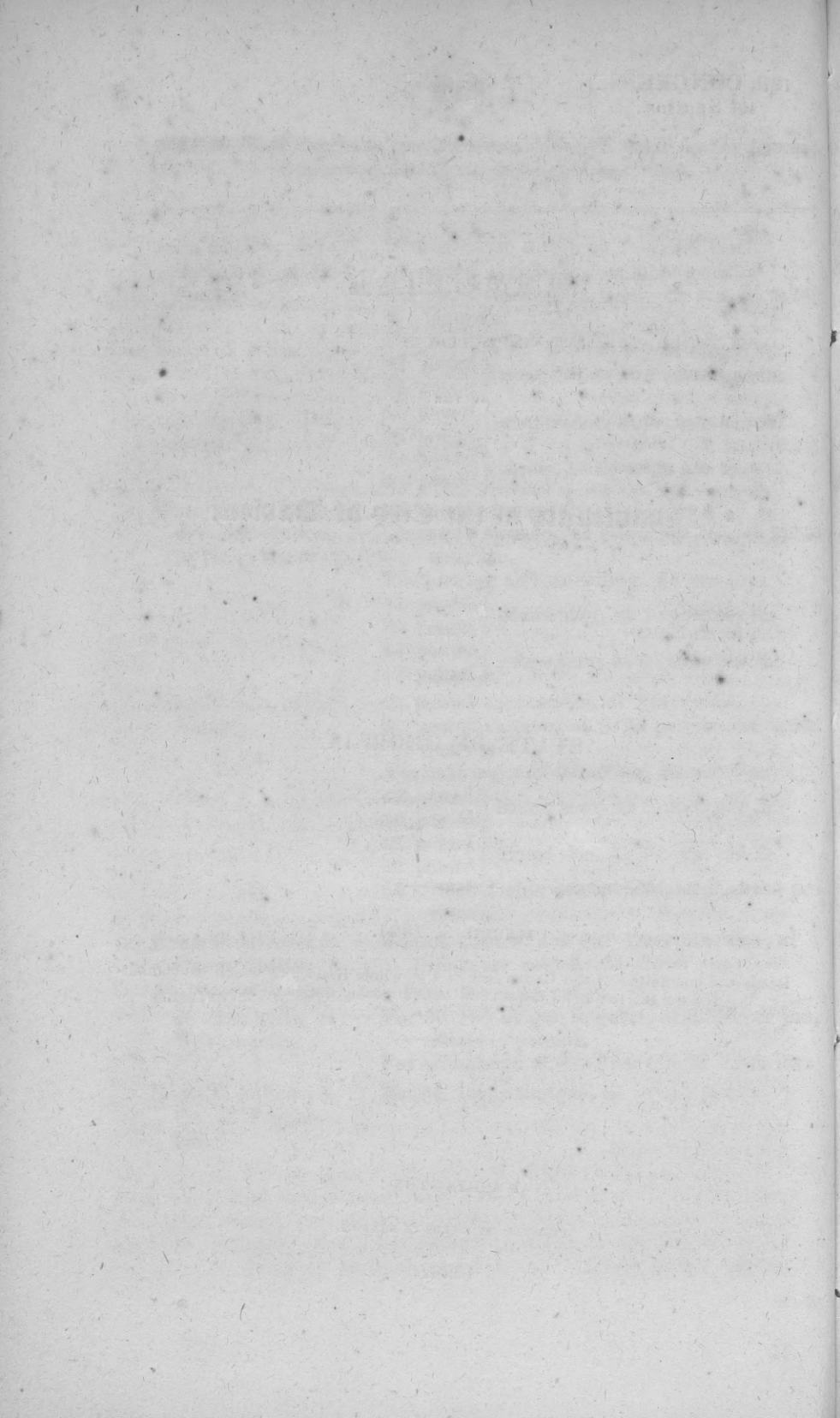
MARCH 3, 1824.

Read, and committed to the Committee of the whole House; to which is committed the Bill to amend the several Acts imposing duties on imports.

WASHINGTON :

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1824.



At an adjourned meeting of the citizens of Darien, and of the inhabitants of M·Intosh county, in the state of Georgia, held this 19th day of February, 1824, at the Court-House, in the city of Darien, the committee appointed at the meeting of the above citizens, and inhabitants, held at the Court-House, on Monday, the 16th instant, to draw up a memorial to Congress, in opposition to the tariff bill, now under consideration, in conformity to their instructions, submitted the following, as their report; which, being unanimously approved of, it was

Resolved, That the Chairman and Committee be instructed to sign the said memorial in behalf of this meeting; and, without delay, to forward the same to the delegation from this state to Congress.

THOMAS SPALDING,

Chairman.

Attest.

JAMES S. BOND, *Secretary.*

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the President and Gentlemen of the Senate, and the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives of the United States of America.

The memorial of the inhabitants of the city of Darien, and of the county of M·Intosh, in the state of Georgia, would respectfully, in common with their fellow-citizens, whose rights and interests are so deeply implicated by the tariff bill, now under the consideration of your honorable body, set forth their objections to the passage of the same, and the serious grievances its adoption must impose upon them.

Your memorialists will not attempt to enter into any minute expositions, either of the impolicy or injustice, of the passage of such an act; because, in the elaborate memorials and remonstrances, on the same occasion, which now load your table, these facts are luminously illustrated.

Your memorialists would go directly to that sacred charter, the constitution of the United States, under which your honorable body holds its existence. And they can there find no power delegated, for the imposition of any tax, which shall not be "*uniform throughout the United States.*" That the passage of the tariff bill now be-

fore you, would be partial, and grievous in its operation, by the sacrifice of the interest of the largest portion of the citizens of these states, to a smaller portion, is too evident and manifest to allow of the smallest doubt. Taxes, to be levied, not for the *common* defence, not for the *common* prosperity, but to foster, in *particular* sections, a forced and unnatural state of things, are objectionable in every point of view.

It is, indeed, nothing more nor less than making of a partial good, an universal evil. What is the proposed object of the bill, however individual cupidity may endeavor to mask its deformity, but the delivering over, bound hand and foot, the interests of the agriculturist, the mechanic, and the navigator, to those of the manufacturer?

If the bill do pass your honorable body, it must have in its train the following consequences: To diminish that source of revenue, which is now satisfactory, and adequate to every needful purpose, so as to compel direct taxation, ever odious in its nature, to the free institutions of this country. And furthermore, to drive from the great deep, that navigation, so important in every regard, to the glory and prosperity of the country, in order to confine it to the shallows along the coast, or to the keel-boats of the Ohio. If the consequences calculated upon by the advocates of the bill take effect, large manufacturing establishments must be raised up in our country, which, by the vice and corruption they engender, will prove a greater bane to this government, than even to those where the rights of the people are overlooked; and, by creating an aristocracy among those, who may have the skill and adroitness to avail themselves of the necessities, or vicious dispositions of their dependents.

On the other hand, any laws which may pass your honorable body, or even further—which might emanate from the bosom of the greatest despot who ever existed, lose much of, perhaps their entire force, in being imposed in opposition to the public opinion. The wiles of the smuggler have ever been found too much for the power of legislation; or even the craft of those who were to enforce it. And it cannot be denied, that the greatest security to the present revenue system of this country, is the odium attached to any one who violates it.